



Rip Current Simulator Training Initiative

The Department has funding to purchase equipment that functions as a **rip current simulator**, designed to train rescue personnel and educate the community.

Why This Matters

Rip currents are a major public safety hazard, accounting for **approximately 80% of surf beach rescues** and nearly **100 fatalities annually**. By incorporating this simulator into your programs, you can:

- Enhance rescue personnel training.
 - Proactively educate the public—especially youth and new beachgoers—on rip current survival techniques.
 - Expand community water safety initiatives with a focus on this extreme hazard.
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About the Simulator

The simulator is provided by **Slipstream** and is typically used as a high-performance swim machine for exercise. Its features make it ideal for rip current training:

- **Powerful Current:** Up to **3,000 Gallons Per Minute (GPM)**, simulating the force of a rip current in a controlled pool environment.
 - **Portable & No Installation Required:** Easy to transport and set up for on-site demonstrations.
 - **Realistic Training:** Far more effective than classroom instruction, offering participants a tangible and memorable experience.
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Training Benefits

Participants can safely practice essential survival techniques, including:

- **Signaling for help**
- **Floating until out of the current**
- **Swimming parallel to shore to escape**

This hands-on approach builds **muscle memory** for real-world situations.

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Program Applications

The Slipstream Swim Machine can be integrated into a variety of programs:

- School field trips and summer camp safety days
- Lifeguard and junior lifeguard certification courses
- Learn-to-swim classes focused on open-water preparedness
- Water safety training for individuals with autism

Consistent Training: Use existing pool facilities to conduct realistic exercises year-round, regardless of weather or ocean conditions.

Key Advantages

- **Public Awareness & Realistic Demonstration:** Adjustable current (up to 3,000 GPM) provides a safe yet powerful experience, illustrating why swimming against a rip current is nearly impossible.
 - **Life-Saving Skill Instruction:** Controlled environment ensures safe practice of survival strategies.
 - **Versatile Community Tool:** Portable design supports multiple outreach programs.
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Cost & Funding

There is **no cost to your agency**. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will cover up to **\$13,900** for equipment and training expenses, provided your organization uses the simulator for **training and education to prevent drownings** in your area.

- **Equipment Cost:** \$12,750
Slipstream™ FL Riptide Training Bundle
Includes:
 - (2) Slipstream Performance units
 - (2) Additional Power Supplies
 - (2) Underwater Headphonesswimslipstream.com/collections/all/products/slipstream™-florida-rip-current-training-bundle-2-slipstream-performance-2-additional-power-supply-2-underwater-headphones
- **Training Funds (if needed):** \$1,150